

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ADLIFE MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
COMPANY, INC.

Plaintiff,

- against -

BUCKINGHAM BROTHERS, LLC

Defendant.

Docket No. 5:19-cv-796 (LEK/ATB)

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Adlife Marketing & Communications Company, Inc. (“Adlife” or “Plaintiff”) by and through its undersigned counsel, as and for its Complaint against Defendant Buckingham Brothers, LLC (“Buckingham Brothers” or “Defendant”) hereby alleges as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is an action for copyright infringement under Section 501 of the Copyright Act. This action arises out of Defendant’s unauthorized reproduction and public display of twelve copyrighted photographs of food, owned and registered by Adlife, an advertising agency specializing in design, digital marketing, print advertising and photography. Accordingly, Adlife seeks monetary relief under the Copyright Act of the United States, as amended, 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. This claim arises under the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*, and this Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

3. Upon information and belief, this Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant resides and/or transacts business in New York and is registered with the New York Department of State Division of Corporations.

4. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331(b).

PARTIES

5. Adlife is an advertising agency specializing in design digital marketing, print advertising and photography having a usual place of business at 38 Church Street, Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860.

6. Upon information and belief, Buckingham Brothers is a domestic limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, with a place of business at 45 Redfield Street, Constantia, New York 13044. Upon information and belief, Buckingham Brothers is registered with the New York State Department of Corporations to do business in New York.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

A. Background and Plaintiff's Ownership of the Photograph

7. Adlife is copyright holder of a photograph of Pork (the "Photograph"). See Exhibit A.

8. The Photograph was registered with United States Copyright Office and was given Copyright Registration Number VA 2-022-966. See Exhibit A.

B. Defendant's Infringing Activities

9. Buckingham Brothers ran the Photograph on their weekly advertisements for their food products. See Exhibit B.

10. Buckingham Brothers did not license the Photograph from Plaintiff, nor did Buckingham Brothers have Plaintiff's permission or consent to publish the Photograph on its advertisements.

CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT AGAINST DEFENDANT)
(17 U.S.C. §§ 106, 501)

11. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1-10 above.

12. Buckingham Brothers infringed Plaintiff's copyright in the Photograph by reproducing and publicly displaying the Photograph on the Advertisements. Buckingham Brothers is not, and has never been, licensed or otherwise authorized to reproduce, publically display, distribute and/or use the Photograph.

13. The acts of Defendant complained of herein constitute infringement of Plaintiff's copyright and exclusive rights under copyright in violation of Sections 106 and 501 of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. §§ 106 and 501.

14. Upon information and belief, the foregoing acts of infringement by Buckingham Brothers have been willful, intentional, and purposeful, in disregard of and indifference to Plaintiff's rights.

15. As a direct and proximate cause of the infringement by the Defendant of Plaintiff's copyright and exclusive rights under copyright, Plaintiff is entitled to damages and Defendant's profits pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(b) for the infringement.

16. Alternatively, Plaintiff is entitled to statutory damages up to \$150,000 per work infringed for Defendant's willful infringement of the Photograph, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(c).

17. Plaintiff further is entitled to its attorney's fees and full costs pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests judgment as follows:

1. That Defendant Buckingham Brothers be adjudged to have infringed upon Plaintiff's copyrights in the Photograph in violation of 17 U.S.C §§ 106 and 501;
2. That Plaintiff be awarded either: a) Plaintiff's actual damages and Defendant's profits, gains or advantages of any kind attributable to Defendant's infringement of Plaintiff's Photograph; or b) alternatively, statutory damages of up to \$150,000 per copyrighted work infringed pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504;
3. That Defendant be required to account for all profits, income, receipts, or other benefits derived by Defendant as a result of its unlawful conduct;
4. That Plaintiff be awarded its costs, expenses and attorneys' fees pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505;
5. That Plaintiff be awarded pre-judgment interest; and
6. Such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b).

Dated: Valley Stream, New York
July 3, 2019

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